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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Children all across this country join us as we pray today.

Lord God, again we pray for the protection of the Nation's Capitol and the prevention of any terrorist attack upon this land.

We also praise and thank You, Lord, for the Capitol Police, the medical staff, and all who worked at the orderly evacuation of this honored place yesterday.

Preserve our liberty, free us from fear, and grant us triumph over every evil.

Throughout our history, You have called forth leaders. Bless now the women and men who assemble as the 109th Congress of the United States of America. Help them to know what is right and enable them to make choices that will unite the Nation, both in prosperity and moral integrity.

May they truly represent the needs and the genius of the people they serve.

May they prove by their actions their personal strength of character and faith in You, our God and Father of all. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PALLONE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATHAM). The Chair will entertain 10 one-minute speeches on each side.

HONORING FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE AND OUR NATION'S NURSES

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is May 12, and May 12 is a special day because that is the day that the lady with the lamp, Florence Nightingale, was born in 1820. Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, the woman who found that cleanliness and hygiene had an effect on wound healing, actually helped wound healing and transformed military medicine back in the 1800s.

This day is also the last day of National Nurses Week, and nursing tells us over and over again what we all in this Congress need to know: it is time to value health. We cannot afford to simply pay for disease any longer.

The American Nurses Association is working to chart a new course for a healthy Nation that relies on the increasing delivery of primary and preventive health care and a renewed emphasis on primary and preventive health care that will require better utilization of our Nation's resources.

Professional nursing has been demonstrated to be an indispensable component for the safety and quality of care of hospitalized patients.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the Nation's 2.7 million registered nurses.

ABUSE OF POWER IN CONGRESS

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, the long string of abuse of power is continuing in the U.S. Congress, most unfortunately. The most recent of this long string of abuses of power is we will see an attempt in the U.S. Senate next week to strip Americans of a protection, a protection against the tyranny of the majority, by eliminating the long, 2-century-long right to a filibuster in the United States Senate, a bastion of democracy.

We already have one House of Representatives. We do not need another one. We need the ability to have the checks and balances in the U.S. Senate. And this is not a matter of academic pursuit.

Last night, I was in the Mall walking quite late at night and I saw a group of folks from New Jersey who had driven all the way down from New Jersey and at this moment are filibustering on the Mall against the efforts in the Senate to remove this basic checks and balances. They drove what they called the "Filibus." Well, we should not have to have a "Filibus" to stand up for the American concept of checks and balances. These abuses of power should stop. The U.S. Senate should maintain this American tradition of a filibuster for the right time and for the right reasons.

MARIETTA, GEORGIA SUPPLEMENTAL PENSION PLAN

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in 1981 as the Social Security system was on the verge of collapse, many cities and counties decided to opt out of the Social Security system. My own

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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